

**Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee
Tuesday, May 3, 2011
Archie Cole Middle School Cafetorium
100 Cedar Avenue
East Greenwich, RI 02818**

ANY ITEMS ON THE AGENDA MAY BE SUBJECT TO A VOTE

6:45 p.m. Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to go into Executive Session under RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (2) Potential Litigation- SORICO, Fields' Litigation, and Update on Lamendola Litigation. The motion carries (7-0).

7:00p.m. Mr. Durant made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer to go out of Executive Session at 7:00p.m. The motion passed unanimously (7-0). Mr. Durant then made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Green, to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Meeting reconvened in Open Session at 7:00p.m.

The regular session of the East Greenwich School Committee was called to order in the Cole Cafetorium by Chair, Dr. Deidre Gifford. Those in attendance were: Mr. Robert Durant, Vice Chair; Mrs. Susan Records; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters; Mr. Paul Martin; Mr. David Green, and Mr. Jack Sommer. Superintendent Dr. Victor Mercurio, Director of Administration Mrs. Maryanne Crawford, and Director of Students Services Mrs. Paula Dillon were also present.

7:00p.m. Regular Meeting

I. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

II. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

III. Approval of Minutes

a. Executive for 4/13/11

Mr. Green made a motion to accept the minutes. Mr. Martin noted he would like a correction made. Mr. Green made a motion to withdraw his motion, which was unanimously approved by the Committee (7-0).

IV. Recognitions

Recognitions were made as follows:

a. EGHS R.I. Technology Students' Association Competition- Jacob DellaGrotta, Derek Messier, Ethan Zink, Brandon Sticca, Megan Soule, and EGHS teacher Keith Doucette

V. Action Items

On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the following field trip was unanimously approved (7-0):

a. Field Trip- Plimoth Plantation, Plymouth, MA- Hanaford, Grade 5, June 2, 2011

Dr. Gifford noted the field trip policy needs to be revised to require only Superintendent approval for out of state day trips.

b. Appointment-Curriculum Coordinators

Mrs. Dillon discussed the curriculum coordinator positions which are being paid using Title II Grant money. The coordinators will perform this work after school, but will need some assistance from teachers during the school day. Dr. Gifford would like future clarification of the work that is being done during the school day. On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee unanimously approved (7-0) the following appointments:

1. Mr. William Harrison appointed as PE/Health Curriculum Coordinator

2. Mr. Keith Doucette appointed as Technology/Art/Music Curriculum Coordinator
3. Mrs. Janet Rufful-ELA Curriculum Coordinator

c. Finance Committee Recommendations

Mr. Henry Kates, of the Finance Committee, discussed the Finance Committee's list of recommendations for the 2012 budget. Recommendations were broken into three categories: Improving the Budgeting Process, Fiscal Review and Controls, and General Recommendations. The Finance Committee will design a template to be used for future budgets. Finance Committee members would like to sit in during Administration Council meetings to discuss the budget. They suggest School Committee members be given regular financial reports and all budget owners three month updates. Mr. Durant stated recommendation #11 was brought up in regards to open source systems. Mrs. Records noted the importance of various stakeholders being involved in tech. recommendations and asks the Finance Committee to reach out to the Tech. Committee. Recommendation #12 is a repeat from last year regarding the RIDE waiver process for buses. The Committee discussed the legal implications and the periodic ridership inventory that is conducted by Ocean State. Dr. Gifford read the name of each Finance Committee member and thanked them for their work on the Finance Committee. Members include: Mr. Henry Kates, Mr. Ed Pieroni, Mr. Tom Stocker, Mrs. June Fischer, Mr. Mohan Mahadeven, Mr. Scott Van Winter, Mr. Steve Miranda and the School Committee liaisons Mr. Robert Durant and Mr. Jack Sommer. Committee members would like time to review the Finance Committee recommendations. Mr. Sommer questioned who is responsible to help implement the recommendations and questioned whether they should be implemented by September. Assistance will be needed from Dr. Mercurio, Mrs. Crawford, and Mrs. Dillon. The Finance Charge also needs to be reviewed since some of their work has changed. Dr. Gifford would like to have a work session with the Finance Committee during the June 2nd School Committee meeting to review their recommendations.

d. ESCO

Mr. David Osborne, an East Greenwich resident, was asked by Dr. Gifford to speak to the Committee about the ESCO process. He gave a summary of his extensive background working with ESCOs and discussed the competitive ESCO process and how each company specializes in various areas and offers a different financial package. For instance, Honeywell focuses on hardware, and Siemens concentrates on building systems. Mr. Osborne suggested the Committee go out to bid to get a diverse idea of what is available. He explained there are two levels of the audit: the initial phase where the company does an on-site audit on the facility (they may or may not ask for specs) and the second level which is a detailed grade audit and is the most important one which is used for the financial guarantee. The Committee had several questions regarding whether the current audit can be used if they go out to bid, whether we own the audit, and whether it is best to use Schneider. Mr. Osborne stated our attorney can confirm who owns the audit and noted if we chose a new company, they may not trust an audit performed by a competitor. Mr. Kates reminded the Committee we have ninety days from the delivery of the audit to either pay for it (if we chose to go out to bid), or sign a contract to use Schneider and the fee will be included in their proposal. He also noted if we use Schneider we can add energy renewables to the proposal. Mr. Kates asked Mr. Osborne if he would be willing to volunteer his expertise to consult on the ESCO bid process. Mr. Osborne agreed to assist and noted energy is a great teaching tool for students. The Committee discussed the walk-through process which involved Mr. Wilmarth and the Energy Committee. Dr. Gifford questioned whether there are advantages to working with the town. Mr. Osborne stated there are since some companies won't bid unless the job is \$3-5 million dollars. Dr. Gifford would like Mr. Wilmarth and the Energy Committee to bring the audit documents to the next School Committee so the Committee can evaluate whether to use Schneider or go to bid. Dr. Gifford would like town members to be part of the process once the information is presented.

VI. Discussion Items

a. Budget FY2012

Dr. Mercurio gave the School Committee a list of potential budget reductions last week. He said building principals told him it will be difficult to reduce their budgets by another \$5,000 since they were already level funded. Dr. Gifford discussed last night's Town Council meeting and discussed some of their

proposed cuts which include the Resource Officer and the shooting range. Mr. Green stated the town currently wants the school budget reduced by \$700,000 plus and is not sure if further cuts will be requested. Programs and class size were discussed. Dr. Mercurio said he will ask the high school administrators to revisit sections for reductions without ruining the integrity of the courses. Dr. Gifford noted school budget owners were level funded and the athletic budget needs to be reviewed. There was discussion regarding using the fund balance for reduced lines. Mrs. Crawford read the increases in the athletic budget which include: transportation costs, increased fuel cost, an additional football coach, an increase in lacrosse coaches, and additional time for a trainer. Mr. Durant would like the athletic director present to discuss any possible reductions and hear how they would affect programs. The Committee agreed that residents should know how further budget reductions will affect the schools. Dr. Gifford would like the Committee to meet for a work session on Friday, May 6, 2011 at 5:00p.m. to discuss additional budget cuts and also get input from Mr. Cobain.

VII. School Committee Concerns

Mr. Martin questioned whether another custodian would be hired for Cole. Dr. Mercurio will speak with Mrs. Meyer tomorrow regarding this matter. Dr. Gifford asked if any member could attend the senate hearing tomorrow regarding binding arbitration and continuing contract. Mr. Durant will try to attend.

VIII. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Durant which was seconded by Mr. Martin, the Committee voted unanimously (7-0) to adjourn at 9:15p.m.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO
SECRETARY